

Dear Friends,

Much has been written and more has been said about razing the old Wasatch Stake Tabernacle. And all of it has been designed to promote the concept that we should preserve this old building as a monument to our wonderful pioneer ancestors.

Now, I don't know for sure about your pioneer ancestors, but I suspect that they were very much like mine. And mine were hard-headed, practical people who built solidly and built well. The buildings they erected sat on solid foundations and the walls were thick and true.

Nevertheless, they were visionary folk, who appreciated beauty and dreamed dreams. One of the dreams in which they believed most fervently was fabricated from the concept of eternal progression. Their march was ever onward and upward. They placed one foot before the other and left it there only long enough to balance themselves while they lifted the other foot to place it firmly ahead. Their eyes were ever looking beyond and above them. They were not long satisfied with the little log cabins that were their first shelters in Utah. They either added to or tore down and built again, bigger and better.

It was this constant forward movement from knowledge to more knowledge, from truth to greater truth, from edifice to finer edifice, that constitutes the great strength and beauty of their contribution to humanity. It should like to ask, then, which is the nobler tribute to these wonderful pioneers, the buildings that they built, or the concepts they espoused with such fervor, such dignity, such courage?

Already my family has made sacrifices to contribute to the funds that will make a new stake tabernacle possible. Before the building is completed I expect my husband and sons to spend many labor-filled hours to push forward the erection of the building. But

when the times comes that our children or our children's children find the building is no longer adequate for their needs, I hope that they will remember us as a progressive people in the tradition of the pioneers; and that they will lay their hands to the building to tear it down and build again a finer and more beautiful place to serve their needs.

I speak for those who feel that we need the new tabernacle to keep us marching forward, and I speak to you who would preserve the old. Please, do not berate us. Since we cannot have both, we honestly believe that we have chosen the finer way to honor our pineers. They were progressive, and we believe that they would have us so. We believe that they would glory in the great building program of the Church which is a forward movement of physical, mental and spiritual proportions. We believe that they would have us be a part of it.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Walter H. Seiter